

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A dialyzer comprising a substantially cylindrical case, a hollow fiber bundle made of a plurality of hollow fiber membranes provided in the case, a gap formed between an inner wall of the case and the hollow fiber bundle, a blood flow path formed by lumens of the hollow fiber membranes, a dialysate flow path formed by the gap between the inner wall of the case and the hollow fiber membranes and gaps between the hollow fiber membranes, and a cylindrical elastic tube inserted in the gap between the inner wall of the case and the hollow fiber bundle and substantially contacting the inner wall of the case, and

wherein a lubricant is provided between an outer surface of the elastic tube and the inner wall of the case.

2. (original) A dialyzer according to claim 1, wherein a rib is formed on an outer circumferential surface of the elastic tube.

3 - 4. (canceled)

5. (original) A dialyzer according to claim 1, wherein the cylindrical elastic tube comprises a plurality of elastic tubes.

6. (original) A dialyzer according to claim 2, wherein the cylindrical elastic tube comprises a plurality of elastic tubes.

7 - 8. (canceled)

9. (original) A dialyzer according to claim 1, wherein a concave portion for receiving and fixing the elastic tube is formed on an inner wall of the case.

10. (original) A dialyzer according to claim 2, wherein a concave portion for receiving and fixing the elastic tube is formed on an inner wall of the case.

11 - 12. (canceled)

13. (original) A dialyzer according to claim 5, wherein a concave portion for receiving and fixing the elastic tube is formed on an inner wall of the case.

14. (original) A dialyzer according to claim 6, wherein a concave portion for receiving and fixing the elastic tube is formed on an inner wall of the case.

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

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15 - 16. (canceled)